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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#5/A

AA

5/3/02

Applicants: Howard

Serial No.: TBA - Case No.: 20493P

Art Unit:

Filed:

Examiner:

For: MELANIN-CONCENTRATING
HORMONE RECEPTORPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the claims by canceling claims 2, 3, 18, 20, 21, 23-27, and 29-33 without prejudice to future prosecution and replacing claims as follows:

A1
1. (Amended Once) A purified nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding for SEQ. ID. NO. 4, SEQ. ID. NO. 6 or SEQ. ID. NO. 8.

A2
4. (Amended Once) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises SEQ. ID. NO. 7.

A3
9. (Amended Once) An expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding for SEQ. ID. NO. 4, SEQ. ID. NO. 6 or SEQ. ID. NO. 8.

A4
11. (Amended Once) The expression vector of claim 10, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes for SEQ. ID. NO. 8.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

DATE OF DEPOSIT 1-10-2002

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MAILED BY J. Crowley

DATE 1/10/02

A5
19. (Amended Once) A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 4, SEQ. ID. NO. 6 or SEQ. ID. NO. 8, wherein said polypeptide is substantially free of associated proteins.

AL6
22. (Amended Once) A method for screening for a compound able to bind a MCH receptor comprising the steps of:

- (a) expressing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 4 or SEQ. ID. NO. 6;
- (b) providing to said polypeptide a test preparation comprising one or more test compounds; and
- (c) measuring the ability of said test preparation to bind to said polypeptide.